The True and Admirable

# HISTORY

OF THE

## Noble Marquess of *SALUS*

AND

# Patient Griſſel,

## A Poor Man's Daughter in *France*.

Shewing how Maids by a diſcreet and virtuous Behaviour may marry good Husbands, and likewiſe how Wives by their Patience and Obedience, may gain much Glory: Being a Pattern for all virtuous Women.

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# HISTORY

OF THE

Noble Marquels of SALUS

AND

Patient Griſel.



Entred according to Order.

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# HISTORY of Patient Griſſel.

## CHAP. I.

*How the Marquiſs of Saluz was ſolicited by his Lords and Gentry to marry, & promiſes them he will: And how he falls in love with the Daughter of* Janicula, *one of his Subjects, and a poor Country Man.*

BEtween the Mountains of *Italy* and *France*, towards the South, lies the Territary of *Saluz*, a Country flouriſhing with excellent Towns and Caſtles, and Peopled with the beſt ſort of Gentry and Peaſants: Amongſt whom there lived not long ſince, a Nobleman of great Hope and Expectation, Lord of the Country, by Name *Gualter*, Marqueſs of *Saluz*; to whom, as the Government appertained by Right of Inheritance, ſo their Obedience attended by Deſert of his Worthineſs. He was young in Years, noble of Lineage, and of ſuch lovely Behaviour, that the Beſt thought it a Pleaſure to be commanded by him, and the Worſt grew more tractable by his good Example. His Delight was in Hunting and Hawking, and the Pleaſure of the Time preſent, extinguiſh'd the Care of the Time to come. For he thought not of Marriage, nor to intangle himſelf with the Inconvenience of a Wife: Still at laſt the People and Noblemen of his Country, diſcontented to ſee him indiſpoſed that way, and preſaging a kind of Proſperity to themſelves, by his Marriage, aſſembled together upon a Day, to determin of their Reſolutions, chuſing one for their Speaker, a noble Knight, of great Authority, fair Demeanor, eloquent Speech, and more inward with the Marqueſs than any of the reſt, to acquaint the noble Marqueſs with their Minds: who being prepared, took an Opportunity to acquaint the renowned Marqueſs with the Matter as followeth:

Most honourable Sir,

The great Humanity extended towards us, and of which I most especially have participated, hath emboldened me above others, to make further Trial of your Patience, and forbearing my Rudeness, not that there is any Sufficiency or Singularity in me above others; but that heretofore I have found you so Generous towards all, I make no Question but to find you as Gracious towards my self; and in that it hath pleased you to accept of our Love, we are prouder again to be under your Obedience, wherein we shall rejoyce the more, if you now accord to our Request the sooner, which is, to marry without Delay; the Time passeth away, and will not be recalled; your Youth intreats it, and must not be denyed; your Country importunes it, and would not be opposed; your Neighbours desire it, and hope to be satisfied, and all Sorts request it, and hope is for your Honour. For when Age approacheth, Death attends it at the Heels; and no Man can tell when, or how it will fall upon him? Therefore we humbly request you to accept our Supplications, which is, That we may provide, by your Appointment, a Lady worthy of your Honour, and our Subjection. In this we are the more Supplicant, because it will redound so much to the Good of your Country, and the enlarging your Renown: for if it should so fall out (which God forbid) that you die without Issue, we may lament the Loss of our Lord, but not redress the Complaints of the People: We want you, that was all our Comfort, but are sure of Distress to our everlasting Trouble. If then you either love your self, or pity us, frame a Heart to this Impression, and leave not us to further Fear and Disquiet.

When the noble Lord had thus apprehended the Petitions of his loving Subjects, he resolved to answer them as graciously as they had propounded the Business with regard of Duty, and so replyed.

My dearest Friend,

You have urged me to a Matter, in which as yet, I have been a meer Stranger: For in Nature I delight in Liberty, and by Custom continued my Pleasures, both which must needs be curbed my Marriage, and restrained by keeping a Wife: notwithstanding, I cast away all Doubts to pleasure you, and will think of no Incumbrances, so you may be satisfied. For the Marriage hath many Difficulties attending, especially that Fear of Legitimation in our Children, and Suspicion of that Honour which lies on our Wives Honesty, yet all shall be overcome with this Resolution, That I shall please you in the same, for I am resolved (if any Good come for Man's Contentment by Marriage, it is from God, to whom I submit this Cause, and

*and pray for the good Success of your Wishes, that I may live to maintain your Peace as well as my own Pleasure; and look wherein my Contentment shall enlarge my Honour) your Welfare shall be respected above my Life; so that (believe it) I will satisfie your Demands, and apply my self to the Purpose. Only one Thing I require at your Hands, to take one worthy my Choice; and neither Insult if she be a Princess of Greatness, nor repine if she be of mean Estate; but love her because I have loved you, and regard her howsoever, in that she is my Wife; neither being curious or inquisitive whom I will chuse, nor disaffected when it is past Remedy.*

When the Company had heard him out, and found him so willing to their Satisfaction, they gave him Thanks with one Heart for his kind Admission, and answer'd with one Tongue, He should not find them Repugnant; but they would honour his Wife as the Princess of the World. Thus did this new Report (like a Messenger of glad Tydings) fill all the Country with Joy, and the Palace with Delight, when they understood their Lord would marry, and in a manner heard the time appointed, for presently it was proclaim'd thro' the Country, and a Day assigned for all Comers to the Court. The Nobles prepared themselves in the best manner: the Ladies spared no cost, either for Ornaments of their Bodies, or setting out their Beauties, the Gentry flocked to please their Lord, and were brave to set out their own Greatness: the Citizens were rich in their Neatness, and handsome in their Attire: the Officers were formal in their Shows, and sumptuous in their Attendants: the Country-man had his Variety, and the very Peasant his Bravery: In a Word, all Sorts gloried in the Hope that Festival, and every Man's Expectation attended the Day of the Triumph. For never was such Preparation in *Saluz* before, nor such a Confluence of People seen in that Country, for besides the Nobility, many Foreign Princes came to celebrate this Marriage, and to shew their own Greatness: *Savoy* was near, and sent some from her snowy Hills: *France* was near, and sent others from her fruitful Vines: *Italy* not far off, and sent many from her pleasant Fields, and the Islands round about kept none at Home that would come. Thus were is Kindred invited, Strangers admitted, his own People entertained, and no Lady designed, no Maid published, no Wife known, only the Preparation was much, and the Expectation greater.

All this while, the noble Marquess continued his Hunting, and as he had accustomed, resorted much to a poor Country Village not far from *Saluz*, where their dwelt a poor Country-man named *Janicola*,

overworn in Years, and overcome with Diſtreſs. But as it happens many times, that inward Graces do moderate outward Diſcommodities, and that God ſeaſoneth Poverty with Contentment and their ſufficient Supportation; ſo had this poor Man all his Defects ſupplyed in the admirable Comfort of one only Daughter: ſo compoſed as if Nature determined a Work of Oſtentation; for ſuch was her Beauty and Virtue, not only in Appearance, but in Reality, that it put judicious Men to an Extaſie in a Choice by Compariſon: but both united, did here grace each other: and when they pretended an Action, it was all to go forward to Perfection. And whereas in others, this temporary Bleſſing gave Wings to deſire to be ſeen and known Abroad: in her thoſe innate Virtues allayed the Heat of all manner of Paſſion and breaking out of Frailty. The Means they had were but mean, and the Diet they kept was to ſatisfie Nature: the time was over-tuled by their Stomachs, and the Ceremonies they uſed, were thanks to God, and moderation for their repaſts. The Utenſils of the houſe were homely, yet handſom, in regard of their Cleanlineſs: the Bed which they had, the old Man lay in, and the poor Daughter made ſhift with the Ground: No Day paſſed without Prayers and Praiſes to God: (For was it not Praiſe worthy to have ſuch Grace in this Diſgrace?) Not any Night without taking Account of the Day paſſed. Her Exerciſe was to help her Father in the Mowing, and drive forth her Sheep in the Day-time: he was at home making of Nets, and ſhe abroad looking to her Lambs: She was never heard to wiſh for any better, but to thank God it was no worſe. No Word of Repining ever came from her Mouth, or the leaſt Grudge from her heart. At Night ſhe followed her Sheep, and dreſſed her Father's Supper: then lay they down to reſt, and reſted as well as in a Bed of Down. This was the Glory of their Poverty, and Memory of their Contentment.

But as Fire will not be hid where there is Matter of Combuſtible, ſo Vertue will not be obſcured where there be Tongues and Ears: not could the Marqueſs ſo hollow after his hawks and hounds, but the Report of this virtuous and fair Damſel hollowed in his Ears (as fit) this Wonderment, inſomuch, that when it was confirmed by judicious Relation, he made it no Diſcry to be beholding to his own Experience. Which when he ſaw concuring with ſome, the Maid brought a kind of Contentment: which continuing, the Properties of both Novelties increaſed to Meditation: and ſo comparing the reſt with this Rarity, he thought her a fit Woman to make his Wife: ſuppoſing

posing that if she were vertuous by Nature, she could not prove vicious by Education, but rather as a Diamond is a Stone of the same Value, whether set in Lead or born, it must needs be of more Excellency, embellish'd with Gold and Enamel. In which Resolution he prepared his Heart, and went forward with his Business.

In the meantime the Court was daintily furnished, the Plate prepared, the Apparel magnificent, the Cornet rich, the Jewels precious, the Ornaments exceeding, and all things befitting the Magnificence of a Prince, and the Dignity of a Queen: only the Nobles wondred, the Ladies were amazed, the Damsels marvelled, the Gentry disputed, the People flocked, and all sorts attended, to see who should possess his Wealth, and be adorned with these Robes. At last the Nuptial day came indeed, and all look't for a Bride; but who she was, the next Chapter must discover.

## CHAP. II.

*How after all this great Preparation, the Noble Marquess of* Saluz, *demanded* Grissel *of her poor Father* Janicola, *and Espousing her, made her Mistresse of* Saluz.

When all things were prepared for this glorious Show, the Noble Marquess (as if he went to fetch his Wife indeed) took with him a great Company of Earls, Lords, and Knights, Esquires, Gentlemen, Ladies and Attendants, and went from the Palace into the Country towards *Janicola*'s House; where the fair Maid, *Grissel*, knowing nothing of that which happened, nor once dreaming of that which was to come, had made her House and self somewhat handsome, determining (with the rest of her Neighbouring-virgins) to see this Solemnity: At which instant arrived the Marquess with all his Gracious Company, meeting with *Grissel* as she was carrying two Pitchers of Water to her Father's House, of whom (calling her by her Name) he asked her where her Father was? She humbly answered in the House. *Go then* (said he) *and tell him I would speak with him.* So the poor old Man (made the poorer by his Astonishment) came forth to him, somewhat abashed, till the Marquess, taking him by the Hand, with an extraordinary Chear, unto, said, That he had a Secret to impart unto him, and so leading him from the Company, spoke these Words:

Janicola, *I know that thou always lovedst me, and art faithful*

*and will not now be ſorrowful, if I be ſatisfied: Nay, I am ſure if it be in your Power, you will farther my Delight, and not be contrary to my Request. For I intend to have your Daughter for my Wife, and be your Son-in-Law for your Advancement. What ſayeſt thou, Man, will you accept me for a Friend, as I have appointed thee for a Father?*

The Poor old Man was ſo aſtoniſhed, that he could not look for Tears, nor ſpeak a Word for Joy, but when the Extaſie had ended, he thus faintly replyed,

*My gracious Soveraign,*

YOu are my Lord, and therefore I muſt accord to your Will, but you are generous, and therefore I preſume on Vertue, take her in God's Name, and make me a glad Father, and let that God, which raiſeth the Humble and Meek, make her a befitting Wife, and a fruitful Mother.

*Why then*, quoth the Marqueſs, *let us enter your Houſe, for I muſt ask her a Queſtion before you.* So he went in, the Company tarrying without in great Aſtoniſhment: the fair Maid was buſied to make it as handſom as ſhe could, and proud again to have ſuch a Gueſt under her Roof, amazed at nothing, but why he ſhould come ſo accompanied, and a little conjecturing ſo great a Bleſſing approaching, but at laſt, the Marqueſs took her by the Hand and uſed theſe Speeches: *To tell you this Bluſh becomes you, it were but a Folly, and that your Modeſty hath graced your Comlineſs, may prove the Deceit of Words, and unbeſitting my Greatneſs, but in a Word, your Father and I have agreed to make you my Wife, and I hope you will not diſagree to take me to your Husband, for Delay ſhall not intangle you with Suſpicion, nor two Days longer protract my Kindneſs, only I muſt be ſatisfied in this, if your Heart afford a willing Entertainment to the Motion, and your Vertue a Conſtancy to this Reſolution: Not to repine at my Diſpleaſure in any thing, nor preſume on Contradiction when I determine to command. For as good Soldiers muſt ſimply obey without diſputing the Buſineſs, ſo muſt virtuous Wives dutifully conſent without Reproof, or the leaſt Contradiction of a Brow. Therefore be adviſed how you anſwer, and I charge you to take heed, that the Tongue utter no more than the Heart conceits.* All this while was Griſel wondring at the Miracle, had not Religion told her, that nothing was impoſſible to the Commander of all Things, which reduced her to a better Conſideration, and this brought for an Anſwer:

*My gracious Lord,*

I [illegible] of your Greatneſs, and know my [illegible] to be your Servant, [illegible]

*to your Wife, Notwithſtanding, becauſe God will be the Author of miraculous Accidents, I yield to your Pleaſure, and Praiſe him for the Fortune: Only this I will be bold to ſay, That your Will ſhall be my Delight, and Death ſhall be more welcome unto me, than a Word of Diſpleaſure againſt you.*

This is ſufficient, anſwer'd the great Lord, and ſo moſt lovingly he took her by the Hand, and brought her to the Company, even before all his Peers and great Ladies, and told them ſhe ſhould be his Wife, ſo that wherein they extended their Love, Reverence, and Obedience towards her, he would exemplify his Regard, Care, and Diligence towards them. And becauſe outward Shews do ſometimes grace befitting Actions (leſt her Poverty and Baſeneſs might too much daunt their Expectation, and ſeem diſgracious to their Nobleneſs) he commanded them with a moral Livelineſs to adorn her with the richeſt Robes they had; ſo that it was a Pleaſure to ſee how the Ladies beſtirred themſelves; a Delight to behold the ſeveral Services performed, the many Hands about her, the Jewels and Pendants, the Robes and Mantles, the Ornaments, Coronets, and Chains, with all other Particulars and Accoutrements; but when ſhe was apparelled, indeed it was a Raviſhment exceeding Report, and they which ſtomached her Preferment, were now highly delighted with her Glory.

## CHAP. III.

### *How the Marqueſs and* Griſſel *were married together.*

AFter the Ladies had thus adorned poor *Griſſel* with Robes befitting her Eſtate, the Marqueſs and all the noble Company returning to *Saluz*, and in the Cathedral Church in ſight of the People, according to the Fulneſs of religious Ceremonies, they were eſpouſed together, and with great Solemnity returned to the Palace. Herein yet conſiſteth the Admiration, that no Word of Reproach was murmured, nor Eye looked unpleaſantly upon her; for by her wonderful Demeanor, ſhe had gained ſo much of Opinion, that the Meanneſs of her Birth was not thought upon, and all her Graces concurring made them verily believe ſhe was extracted of princely Lineage, no Man once ſuppoſed that ſhe could be *Griſſel*, Daughter to poor *Janicola*, but rather ſome Creature metamorphoſed by the Powers of Heaven: For beſides the outward Stateline ſs and Majeſtical Carriage of herſelf, the wonderful Modeſty and exact Symmetry of her Countenance, the admirable Beauty and extraordinary Favour of her Viſage, her fair Deportment had a kind of Attraction, and her gracious Words a ſweet

Delivery: ſo that all that came to her were glad of their Acceſs, and they which went for her, triumphed for their good Speed: yea. Report extended ſo far, that ſhe was not only viſited by their own Lords and Ladies with Reverence, but attended on with Strangers, who came from all Quarters to ſee her, and to be beholding to their own Judgments: ſo that if the Marqueſs loved her before for her own Worth, he now reverenced her for others Reſpect, the rather, becauſe he found a Bleſſing attending her Preſence, and all People pleas'd in the Contract. For when any Controverſie happened betwen himſelf and his Nobles, ſhe was ſo noble minded, that what ſhe could not obtain by fair Intreaty, ſhe yet mittigated by ſweet Perſwaſion. When any Unkindneſs happened of foreign Princes, ſhe urged thoſe Bleſſings of Peace, and reaſoned the matter with delightſome Enforcements: and when the People were either complained of, or againſt, he marvelled from whence ſhe had thoſe pretty Reaſons to aſſwade his Anger, and they very believed ſhe was ſent from Heaven for their Relief. Thus was ſhe amiable to her Lord, acceptable to her People, profitable to her Country, a Mirror of her Sex, a Perſon privileged by Nature, and a Wonder of the Time, in which ſhe did nothing out of Time: ſo that the Marqueſs was rather raviſhed than loving: and all his Subjects reſolved to Obedience from her good Example.

## CHAP. IV.

*How the Lady* Griſel *was proved by her Husband, who thus made Trya of her Patience.*

TO other Bleſſings in proceſs of Time, there was added the Birth of a ſweet Infant Daughter, that rejoyced the Mother and gladded the Father; the Country triumphed, and the People clapped their Hands for Joy. For the Marqueſs ſtill loved her more and more, and they thought their Lives not dear for her, if occaſion ſerved. Notwithſtanding all this, Fortune hath ſtill a Trick to check the Pride of Life, and Proſperity muſt be ſeaſoned with ſome Croſſes, or elſe it would taint and corrupt us too much. Whereupon, the Marquel determined now to prove his Wife, and make Trial of her Vertue indeed, and ſo taking a convenient Seaſon, after the Child was full weaned, he one day repaired ſecretly to her Chamber, and (ſeeming half-angry) thus imparted his mind:

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*Although* Grissel, *this your present Fortune hath made you forget your former Estate, and that the Jollity of your Life overswayeth the Remembrance of your Birth, yet, neither is it so with me, nor my Nobles: for I have occasion of some Distasting, and they great Cause of Repining in that they must be subject to one so base, and have still before their Eyes our Children of such low Degree, so that tho' (for my Sake) they rest satisfied for the present, yet they are resolved never to suffer any of your Posterity to Rule over them, of which, as they have disputed with me, I cannot chuse but forewarn you; therefore to prevent this Discontentment between us, and to maintain that Peace which must corroborate my State, I must needs yield to their Judgments, and take away your Daughter from you to preserve their Amity: The thing I know, must be displeasing to Nature, and a Mother cannot well endure such a Loss: but there is now no Remedy, only make use of your Resolutions, and remember what you promised me at the Beginning of our Contract.*

The Lady hearing this sorrowful Preamble, and apprehended the Marquis's Resolution, to her Grief (altho' every Word might have been as Arrows in her Sides) yet admitted of the Temptation, and disputing with her self to what End the Vertues of Patience, Modesty, Forbearance, Fortitude, and Magnanimity were ordained, if they had not Subjects to work upon, and Objects to look after, thus replyed,

My Lord,

*YOu are my Soveraign, and all earthly Pleasures and Contentments of my Life come from you, as the Fountain of my Happiness, and therefore please your self, and believe it is my Pleasure that you are pleased: As for the Child, it is the Gift of God, and yours: Now he that gives may take away; and as we receive Blessings from Heaven, so must we not dote on them on Earth, lest by setting our Minds too much upon them, we cannot set off our Hearts when they are taken from us; only one thing I desire, that you remember that I am a Mother, and that I burst not into a Passion for her Loss, it is for your sake I am no more perplexed, and so you shall ever find me a Wife befitting your Desires.*

When the Marquess saw her Constancy, and was in a manner pleased with her modest Answer, he replyed not at all at that time, for his Heart was full, and what between Joy and Fear he departed: Joy, that so great Virtue had the Increase of Goodness: Fear, that he had presumed so far on such a Trial; but resolved in his Business, he went to put it to the Adventure.

## CHAP. V.

*The Marquess sent for his Daughter, but privately disposed of her with his Sister, the Dutchess of* Bolegna de Grace, *who brought her up in all things befitting the Child of so great a Person.*

NOt long after this sad Conference between the Marquess and his Lady, he called a faithful Servant unto him, to whom he imparted this Secret, and with several Instructions what he truly meant to do with the Child, sent him to his Wife with an unsavory Message, which yet he delivered in this manner:

I had not now come to you, most nobly Lady, though that Power commanded me, which hath my Life in Subjection, if I had not more relied on your Wisdom and Virtue, then feared Death it self. Therefore I crave Pardon, if I am displeasing in my Message, and seem cruel (as it were) in tearing your Flesh from your Sides, by bereaving you of this your Daughter, for he hath appointed that it must not be gain-said, and I am a Messenger that cannot be denied: But yet, with what unwillingness (God knows my Soul) in regard that you are so respected amongst us, that we think of nothing but what may delight you, and talk not a Word but of your Merit and Worthiness.

When she had heard him out, remembring the Conference the Marquess had with her, and apprehending there was no disputing in a matter Remediless, especially with a Messenger, she resolved it was ordained to die, and although she must now (as it were) commit it to a Slaughter-house, whereby any Woman in the World might with good Becoming have burst out into some Passion and well enough shewed a distracted Extasie; yet recollecting her Spirits, and reclaiming those Motives of Natural, already striving in her Bowels, she took the Child in her Arms, and with a Mother's Blessing, and sweetned Kisses, the Countenance somewhat sad, and the Gesture without any violent Execution, delivered it unto the Fellow, not once amazed or distempered, because her Lord would have it so, and she knew not how to have it otherwise; only she said, I must, my Friend, intreat one thing at your hands, that out of Humanity and Christian Observation, you leave not the Body to be devoured of Beasts and Birds, for it was worthy of a Grave in her Innocency, and Christian Burial, tho' she were but my Daughter alone.

The Fellow having received the Child, durst not tarry for fear of discovering, (such Impression had her words made already) but returned

ed with it to his Maſter, not leaving out the laſt Circumſtance of her anſwer, nor any thing that might enlarge her Renown and Conſtancy.

The Marquess conſidering the great Vertue of his Wife, and looking on the Beauty of his Daughter, began to enter into a kind of Compaſſion, and to retract his Wilfulneſs, but at laſt, Reſolution won the Field of Piety; and having (as he thought) ſo well begun, would not ſo ſoon give over: But with the ſame Secreſie he had taken her from his Wife, he ſent it away to his Siſter, the Dutcheſs of *Bologna*, with Preſents of Worth, and Letters of Gratification, containing in them the Nature of the Buſineſs, and the Manner of her bringing up, which ſhe accordingly put in Practice, receiving her Niece with Joy, and inſtructing her with Diligence; ſo that it ſoon appeared under what Tutelage ſhe was, and whoſe Daughter ſhe might be. For her Pregnancy learned whatſoever they taught her, and the Grace ſhe added, quickly diſcovered that Honour had confederated with Nature to make her the Off-ſpring of ſuch a Mother.

## CHAP. VI

*The Marqueſs, not contented with this Proof, took away alſo his Son, in which Adverſity (with other Additions) ſhe ſhewed an extraordinary Patience.*

AFter this Tempeſt was overpaſt, the Rage whereof might eaſily have broke the tender Sides of poor *Griſſel*'s Back (for ſhe verily believed that her Daughter was ſlain) the Marqueſs ſtill lay in wait for the Trial of his Wife, watching every Opportunity which might acquaint him with her Diſcontents; eſpecially if he might underſtand whether ſhe complained of his Rigour and Unkindneſs, or no; but when he not only was advertiſed of her Conſtancy and fair Demeanor, but ſaw (by Experience) that ſhe was neither elevated in Proſperity, nor dejected in Adverſity; when he perceived ſo great a Temperture between the Joy of her Advancement, and the Sorrow for her Trouble, he wondred at her Conſtancy, and the rather becauſe her Love and Obſervance toward him continued with ſuch Sweetneſs, and had ſuch delectable Paſſages, that his Heart was ſet on fire again: and he knew not how to allay the Extremities of his Joy. In this manner paſſed four Years, wherein ſhe over-paſſed all of her Kind; and he thought it a Donative from Heaven to have ſuch a Wife. At laſt, Nature beſtirred himſelf again, and made her a happy Mother of

a fair Son, the Joy whereof, led the whole Country into the House of Prayer and Thanksgiving; so that she well perceiv'd how acceptable she was to her People, and beloved of her Husband. Notwithstanding, with the same Water that drove the Mill, he drowned it, and made her still believe the contrary; for after two Years, that the Child was past the Danger of the Cradle, and the trouble of Infancy, he took occasion once again to inflict upon this virtuous *Grissel* a new Punishment, erecting his Building upon the old Foundation: *You know*, said he, *what former Contentions I have had with my Nobility about our Marriage; not that they can lay any Imputation on you, or your worthy Behaviour, but on my Fortune and disasterous Affection, to match my self so meanly; wherein yet their forward Exprobation was rebated, all the while we either had no Children, or that they supposed, those which we had to be taken from us, all which ariseth out of the Error of Ambition, (which in a manner is careless of Virtue) respecting nothing but a high Progeny; so that ever since this Child was born, there hath passed many secret Grudgings, and unkind Speeches against it, as if it were a Disparagement to their Greatness, to have a Lord of so mean a Parentage, and the Country to be subject to the Grand-child of* Janicola, *whom, you see, never since our Marriage, they would admit no Place of Honour, or to over-top them, by way of Association, nor will suffer this my* Gualtar, *though it carry the Father's Name, to Rule over them. Therefore, to allay the Heat of those present Fires, and to preserve the Peace of my State (by preventing the Mischief of future Troubles) I am resolved to settle my Contentment, and deal with your Son as I have dealt with your Daughter. And of this I thought good to advertise you, as a Preparative for Patience, lest Sorrow should distract you with Oversuddenness.*

Now you Ladies and Dames of these times, that stand upon Terms of Spirit and Greatness of Heart (some will have it Courage and Magnanimity of Mind) that are affrighted at the Character of a Fool, and silly poor Soul: I speak not of Strumpets, or of such as are willing to brand themselves with the Impurity of Uncleanness, and dare out of Impudency or Cunning, tell their Husbands to their Faces, they will go where they list, and do what they please; but of such, that under that impregnable Target of Honesty, are yet so impatient at every Distemperature, that they dare answer Taunt for Taunt, yea, like Virago's indeed, offer the first Blow, tho' a horrible Confusion follow: what would you have answered this Lord? Or with what Fire-works would you have made your approaches unto him? I would not desire your Answer, lest I pull the old House in pieces, and so tho'

tho' I scape the Timber, I may be crushed with the Rubbish: but I will not anticipate (or prevent) all Objections, by telling you what fair *Grissel* said, or if there be Hope of Reformation, insert it as a Caution, to divert your natural Fiercenes.

When she had heard him out, tho' to the Grief of her Soul, she conceived the Murther of her Child, and that the Apprehension renewed the Sorrow of her Daughter's Loss yet would she give no way to such Distemperature, that either he should have Cause to suspect her Patience, or she herself the Temptation of Disquiet, and therefore thus reply'd:

My Lord,

*I Have many times told you, that my Soul rejoyceth in nothing but in your Repose, for you are the Lord of me and this Infant; and though I could be contented to shew my self a Mother in his Education, and bring him now and then unto you as a Pledge of our Loves, yet are you the Commander of my Vows, and I will rectifie all disordered Appetites by the Rule of your Pleasure. Take him then, and if he be marked for Death, it is but the common Brand of all living Creatures: Nay, if the Mother be a Sacrifice of the Propitiation to appease your Disquiet, never was Lamb so meek, nor so willing to be offered. For what may be comprehended under the Titles of Fathers, Kindred, Children, Friends, Life, Pleasure, Honour and Contentment, are all comprized under your Loss, and the Society of a Husband. Do with me then what you please; the Body shall serve your turn while it lives, and the Soul attend you after Death.*

Here was an Answer to pacify the Daughters of *Sicily*, and put a Manquite out of his Tract of proving such a Wife, yet the Marquess only made use of it to rejoyce in the Assurance of her Goodness, and went the rather forward in his dangerous Course of Temptation.

## CHAP. VII.

*The Marquess resolute to prove his Wife further, sendeth for his Son, and disposith of him as he had done of his Daughter.*

AS this patient and wonderful Lady was one Day sporting with her Infant, like an untimely Tempest (spoiling the Beauty of some new-rooted Plants) did this Messenger of Death interpose himself between the Recreation, making the hollow Demand of her Son

worse

worse then the Noise of a Screech-owl over a sick Man's bed; yet (as if there were a Conscience disquieting her Greatness, or if you will, her Goodness) he came forward with Preambles and Apologies, insinuating, with craving Pardon, the Authority of a Lord, the Duty of a Servant, the Terror of Death, the Circumstances of Obedience, and all other Enforcements which might either excuse a Messenger, or make the Message it self without Blame. What should I enlarge Discourse of Terror? It is a Courtesie to conclude a Mischief with Quickness. He was not so sudden in his Demand, as she was ready in her Dispatch; for she presently blessed the Child, kissed it, adorned it, and delivered it to the Executioner, only with the same Enforcement she pleaded as she had spoken of in the Behalf of her Daughter; not to see it perish for want of a Burial, or devoured for want of a Grave.

In this manner, and with this Report he return'd to his Lord, who had still more cause of Amazement, and less Reason to trouble such a Creature, had not his Wilfulness put him forward to make an End of his Business, and taught him still Variety of Trying this Gold in the Fire. But for the time, he sent likewise this Child to his Sister, the Dutchess of *Bologna*, who understanding her Brother's Mind, brought up both these Children in such a Fashion, that though no Man knew whose Children they were, yet they imagined whose they might be; that is, the Son and Daughter of some Prince, or other Potentate, willing to have his Children brought up to the best purpose, and befitting their Birth and Honour.

The ordering of this Business in this sort, made the Marquess once again settle himself in *Salus*, where he kept open House to all Comers, and was proud of nothing so much, as the Honour of his Wife, and the Love of his People, for although he had thus tyred her Patience and Constancy giving her more than sufficient Cause of Anguish and Perturbation, yet could he not find Fault of the Demonstration of Offence, but still she loved him more, and more, and was so servingly Dutiful and cautious of Displeasure, that many times he grew enamored of that he might command, and seem'd Passionate in the Distractions of Over joy. Nor could the length of time make this Love wearisome, for all they had lived thus a dozen Years together: Only she got the Hand of him in the Opinion of the People; who by this time began to whisper against his Unkindness, that had married so virtuous a Woman and bereaved her of two Children, so that if they were slain it was a Murder; if otherwise, it was Unkindness. For though she were poor *Janicola's* Daughter by Birth, yet she might come from

Her-

Heaven for her Vertue; and was sure to go thither for her Piety. Notwithstanding these Breakings-out which came often to the Ears of his Honour, such was her Moderation and his Government, that they only whisper'd the same in her behalf and contented themselves, with expectation of future Good, as they had the fruition of present Happiness, not medling with the same farther than in her Commiseration of her, and still acknowledging their Duty to him: to that altho' he knew she might this way understand his former Reasons of taxing away her Children, that it was but a Device, and that there were some other Motives which procur'd his Unkindess; yet was he still obstinate to exercise her Patience, and Conceit beat out another Plot of Offence, on the Anvil of a loving, yet most hardned Heart.

## CHAP. VIII.

*The Marquess to try his Lady further, made her believe he would marry another Wife.*

SOme twelve Years were pass'd, since the Marquess of *Saluz* had sent his Daughter to *Bologna*, to his Sister, who by this time, was grown to that Beauty, Comelineſs and Perfection, that her Fame busied all *Europe*; and the Lady *Grissel* her Mother was made acquainted with her Excellency; whereupon he very strangely sent to *Rome*, by a Messenger of Trust, for counterfeit Letters to marry this *Paragon*, and to be divorsed from his first Wife: Which was so effectually dispatch'd, that the Messenger soon return'd with the Approbation of his Request; and he himself had many Allegations in readineſs to excuse the Matter, intimating the Good of the Country, and the continual Desire of his People for the Alteration; which altho' it was far from Probability, because they pitied their Lady's Distress, and rather repined against their Lord's Unconstancy, yet it serv'd his Turn for the Time, and he thereupon erected the Frame of his second Marriage. By this time fair *Grissel*, acquainted with the Business, and troubl'd at this Misfortune, but having many times play'd the Wanton with Affliction, she re-setled herself to endure whatsoever should be imposed; so that when she came to Proof indeed, nothing affronted her Constancy, nor humbl'd her lower, than her own Vertue had taught her the Way.

In the mean while, the Marquess under-hand sent to his Sister to bring his Children with all the Pomp and Glory they could prepare; with Caution, not to discover their Names, and to be at a Day ap-

pointed

pointed at *Saluz*. So that it passed current all over the Country, that a young, brave and gallant Lady, of great Lineage and greater Worth, of high Renown, and mighty Affinity, was coming to *Saluz*, to be espous'd to the Marquess; and that they were already come out of *Bologna de Grate*, a whole Day's Journey forward with such a Troop and Company, that here was now a Shew of Magnificence, and a Spectacle of Delight: For amongst the rest there was a young Lord, not full eight Years old, whose Bravery and Gallantness drew all Men's Eyes with Admiration toward him, had not the Lady divided the Gazing, and shar'd with their Opinion: For besides her Riches an outward Ornaments, and gracious Behaviour, she was of extraordinary Stature and Majestick Presence.

These things thus dispos'd and handsomely carried, the Marquess took an Opportunity thus to speak to the disconsolate *Grisel* before all his People. In times past, I confess you deserv'd my Love, and notwithstanding the Disparity between us, I thought it well bestow'd upon you; nay, I can't now impute any ill Desert unto you; notwithstanding, for some Reason to my self best known, I am resolv'd to take another Wife; who, as you hear is on the way hitherward already; therefore, I would advise you to retire to your Father's, out of, till you hear further from me.

Alas my Lord, reply'd she sweet Soul, I ever disputed the Matter with Reason, that there was no Equality between so great Magnificence and my Humiliation, and in the greatest Assurance of my Prosperity, reputed my self a Vassal and Hand-maid, proud of nothing but my own Readiness to be at your Command, and your Willingness to imploy me in your Affairs; so that I take God to be my Witness, I scarce trusted my self with the Name of Wife, when I was in the best Assurance; therefore I must acknowledge what you have heretofore vouchsafed, as a part of great Bounty, and the very Fruits of your Generosity. As for returning to my poor Father's House, I am most willing; and there, as you please, like a forlorn Person, will spend the rest of my Days; yet remember I was your Wife, espoused, orderly, and you had Children by me, so that if I there die, I must yet die the Widow of such a Lord, and for Honour's sake be so reputed; As for your new Spouse, God grant her many Days of Comfort, and you many Years of Joy, that you may live in reciprocal Delight one with another, and entertain no worse Contentment, than poor *Grisel* recruited: As for my Dowry, I brought, I confess, only my self, and would have no more back again: which was Faith,

Love,

Love, Reverence, Poverty, and Virginity; for as I came naked from my Father's Houſe, I am contented to return ſo again. Your Jewels are in the Wardrobe, and even the Ring you married me with, all in the Chamber: of this I wear, I ſhall quickly be diſrob'd; and if there be any further Miſery appointed, my Patience can endure it, if your Pleaſure impoſe it: Only in recompence of my Virginity, I requeſt a poor Smock to hide that Womb from publick overlooking, that was once ſo private to ſo great a Prince; and becauſe it was the Bed of your Infants, let it not be the Scorn of your People; but give me leave thus to go out of the Place that hereafter Times may wonder, how quietly a Woman yielded to ſo great a Change. Nay, let no Man ſhed a Tear, I muſt be more naked than ſo; for tho' the Wife of a Marqueſs while I lived, and the Widow when I died, yet am I not too good for a Grave, but in diſpite of Pride, muſt return to Duſt and Aſhes.

Did I ſay before, they began to weep? I can aſſure you, when ſhe had done, they roar'd out-right: yea, the Marqueſs himſelf ſhed ſo many Tears, that he was faint to retire, and commanded the Smock ſhe had begg'd to be ſent to her, that he might proſecute the Enterprize, and he determined his Buſineſs as he had conſtantly projected.

## CHAP. IX.

*How Patient* Griſſel *was diſrob'd of her Apparel, and reſtor'd all that ſhe had (except one poor Smock) to the Marqueſs.*

After this, the Marqueſs being reſolv'd to ſhow the laſt Act of her Tryal, ſet her the Smock ſhe demanded. Among all the Lords, Knights, Ladies, and other Company, ſhe preſently diſrob'd herſelf, and went ſo accompany'd from the Palace to her Father's Cottage; who, as you have heard, (for divers Reaſons) was only kept from Want, but never advanced out of the ſame.

The Company could not chuſe but weep and deplore the Alteration of Fortune; ſhe cou'd not chuſe but ſmile, that her Vertue was predominant over Paſſion; they exclaim'd againſt the Cruelty of her Lord: ſhe diſclaim'd the leaſt Invective againſt him: They wondred at her ſo great Vertue and Patience; ſhe reſolv'd them, that they were Exerciſes befitting a modeſt Woman; they follow'd her with a true Love and Deſires to do her good; ſhe thank'd them with a true Heart, and requeſted them to deſiſt from any further deploring of her State.

By this time they approach'd the Houſe, and the poor old Man Je-

*nicola*, acquainted with the Hurliburly, came out to see what the Matter was, and finding it was his Daughter in her Smock, and in so honourable a Company, bemoaning her Distress, he quickly left them all unspoke unto, and ran in for those poor Robes, which were formerly left in the House; with which he quickly array'd her, and told her before them all that now she was in her right Element; and kissing her, bid her welcome. The Company was as much astonish'd at his Moderation, as at her Constancy, wondering how Nature could be so restrain'd from Passion, and that any Woman had such Grace to be so gracious; in which Amaze, not without some Reprehension of Fortune and their Lord's Cruelty, they left her to the Roverty of the Cell, and return'd themselves to the Glory of the Palace; where they recounted to the Marquess the Strangeness of the Business, and the Manner of the Accidents, and how she continu'd in her first Moderation and indefatigable Patience: The poor Father only laughing to scorn the Miseries and sudden Mutability of Humane Condition, and comforting his Daughter in her well begun Courses of Modesty, and Reposidness.

Not long after, approach'd the Dutchess of *Bologna*, with her glorious Company, and beautiful Lady, sending word before-hand, that she should be at *Saluz* such a Day; whereupon the Marquess sent a Troop to welcome her, and prepar'd the Court for her Entertainment: The Bruit of which yet had not so equal a Passage but divers contrary Opinions thus banded themselves: Some absolutely condemn'd the inconstancy of the Lord, others deplor'd the Misfortune of the Lady; some repin'd to see a Man so cruel against so great Worthiness, others exemplify'd her Praises to all Eternity; some were transported with the gallant Youth and Comliness of this new beautiful Virgin; others presum'd to parallel the fair *Grisil*, but that she had stopp'd a little before her in Years; some harp'd upon her great Nobility and high Lineage: Others compar'd the former Wive's Vertue and Wisdom: some excus'd their Lord, by his Love to his Country: other excus'd the Lady, by the Nature of the Adversity; until the approach of the fair Virgin and the young nobleman in her company, extinguish'd all former Conceits, and set them to a new Work, concerning this Spectacle, wherein the young Lady, and her brave Brother, had such Preheminence: Nor knew the Duke himself, or any of the Company on either side, that they were the Marquess's Children by *Grisil*, but meerly Strangers, and design'd for this new Marriage. So the great Marquess made Good Semblance and, with his accustomed Courtliness, welcom'd them all to the Palace.

The

The very next Morning (or if you will, the Day before) he sent a Messenger for *Grisel*, to come unto him in the same manner as he was: Who protracted no time, but presently attended her Lord: at her approach he was somewhat appalled, but yet setting (as we say, the best Foot forward, he thus proceeded:

The Lady *Grisel*, with whom I must marry, will be here to Morrow, by this time, and the Feast is prepar'd accordingly: now because there is none so well acquainted with the Secrets of my Palace, and Disposition of my self as you, I would have you for all this base Attire, address your wisdom to the ordering of the Business, appointing such Officers as is befitting; and disposing of the Rooms, according to the Degrees and Estates of the Persons: Let the Lady have the Priviledge of the Marriage-chamber, and the young Lord the Pleasure of the Gallery; let the rest be lodged in the Courts, and the better Sort upon the Sides of the Garden: Let the Wines be plentiful, and the Ceremonies maintain'd; let the Shadows be sumptuous, and the Pastimes as becometh: In a Word, let nothing be wanting, which may set forth my Honour, and delight the People.

My Lord, said she, I ever told you, I took Pleasure in nothing but your Contentment; and whatsoever might conform to your Delight, therein consisted my Joy and Happiness: therefore make no question of my Diligence and Duty in this or any other thing which it shall please you to impose upon me And so like a poor Servant she presently address'd herself to the business of the House performing all things with such a quickness and grace that each one wondered at her goodness and fair demeanor, and many murmur'd to see her put to such a Tryal. But the day of Entertainment is now come, and when the fair Lady approach'd, her very Presence had almost extinguish'd the Impression of *Grisel*'s Worthiness; for some unconstant humourists gave way to the Alteration, not blaming the Marquess for such a Change: but when the Strangers were made acquainted with the Fortune of *Grisel*, and saw her fair Demeanor, they could not but esteem her a Woman of great Vertue and Honour being more amaz'd at her Patience, than at the Mutability of Man's Condition; till at last she approach'd the Lady, and, taking her by the Hand, us'd this Speech.

Lady, if it were not his Pleasure, that may Command, to bid you welcome, yet methinks there is a kind of over-ruling Grace from Nature in you, that must exert a Respect unto you. And as for you, young

young Lord, I can ſay no more, but if I might have my Deſires ſatisfied in this World, they ſhould be imploy'd to wiſh you well, and to endeavour all things for your Entertainment indeed. To the reſt I afford what is fitting, deſiring them, that if any Deficience abate their Expectation, they would impute it either to my Ignorance, or Negligence; for it is the Pleaſure of him, in whoſe Will is all my Pleaſure, that in all Sufficiency you ſhould have Regard and Supplement. And ſo ſhe conducted them to their ſeveral Chambers, where they repos'd themſelves a while, till the time of Dinner invited them to repaſt. When all things were prepared, and the Solemnity of placing the Gueſts finiſh'd, the Marqueſs ſent for *Griſſel*, and ſtanding on his Feet, took her by the Hand before them all, erecting his Body, and elevating his Voice in this manner:

You ſee the Lady is here I mean to marry, and the Company gloriouſly prepar'd to witneſs the ſame: Are you therefore contented that I ſhall thus diſpoſe of my ſelf, and do quietly yield to the Alteration?

My Lord, replyed ſhe before them all, wherein as a Woman, I might be faulty, I will not now diſpute: But becauſe I am your Wife, and have devoted my ſelf to Obedience, I am reſolv'd to delight my ſelf in nothing but your Pleaſure; ſo that if this Match be deſigned for your Good, and determined by your Appointment, I am much ſatisfied, and more than much contented. And for your Lady, I wiſh her the Delights of your Marriage, and the Honour of her Husband, many Years of Happineſs, and the Fruits of a chaſte Wedlock; Only gracious Lord, take heed of one thing, that you try not this new Bride as you have done your old Wife; for ſhe is young, and peradventure of another Strain and ſo may want of that Patience and Government, which I, poor I, have endured.

Till this, he held out bravely, but Nature overcoming Reſolution, and conſidering with what ſtrange Variety his Unkindneſs had paſſed, he could not anſwer a Word for Tears; and all the Company ſtood confounded at the Matter, wondring what would be the End of the Buſineſs, and the Succeſs of the Extaſie. But to draw them out of their Doubts, the next Chapter ſhall determine the Controverſie.

CHAP.

## CHAP. X.

*The Oration of the Marquess to his Wife, and the Discovery of her Children, to her great Joy, and the Content of all the Company.*

After a little Reducement of his Passion, at that time, and further Meditation ad dispos'd his Senses to their perfect State, the Marquess graciously answer'd:

Thou wonder of Women, and Champion of true Vertue; I am athame of my Imperfections, and tyr'd with abusing thee. I have try'd thee beyond Reason, and thou hast forborn me beyond modesty: Believe it therefore, I will have no Wife but thy self, and when God hath thought thee too good for the Earth, I will (if it be not too much Superstition) pray to thee in Heaven. Oh, 'tis a Pleasure to be acquainted with thy Worth, and to come near thy Goodness, maketh a Man better than himself. For, without Controversie, except thou hadst been sent from above, thou couldst never have acted a Goddess's part below: and therefore, seeing I have us'd thee so unkindly here-ofore, I protest never to disquiet thee hereafter; and wherein my cruelty extended against thee, in bereaving thee of thy Children my Love shall now make amends in restoring thee thy Daughter. For this, my new Bride is she, and this Wanton her Brother: Thank this great Lady (my Sister) for their bringing up; and this Man, you know him well enough) for his Secresie, be not amaz'd at the Matter I have related a Truth and will confirm it on my Honour: Only sit down till the dinner is come, and bid the Company welcom in this poor attire: for the Sun will break thro' slender Clouds, and Vertue shine in base Array. I could much dilate the Matter, but it is time to end, lest the Circumstances never end. This Device of the Marquess's, of Kissing her so lovingly, and setting her down by him so discreetly, did much good: for the Company had time to dispute of the Miracle, and the young Lady reason to prepare her obedience; which no sooner was the Dinner finish'd, but she as soon performed: Nothing thought upon, but Joy at the Matter, and Wonder at the Accident; every one pleas'd to see such a Unity of Goodness and all delighted to have a Business so well concluded. But seeing time had unclaps'd a Book of such Jollity, there was now no further disputing, for the Ladies flock'd about her to attend her into the Chamber; where the young Princes her Daughter was as ready as the best to appear, her self so, that when she came amongst them again, she [illegible]

a Tempest, and seem'd more glorious, because adversity kept her from all insulting and vain-glorious Pride.

Thus was the Marquess invested in all the Offices, and she continu'd in her old Conduct; she was reverenc'd for her Worth, as he was esteem'd and applauded for his Wisdom: the Nobles applying themselves to Reason, the Gown and the People proud they had such a Lord to obey; especially Justified, when the poor *Samuel* was advanced to his Counsels, and made Governour of his Palace; wherein he behav'd himself so discreetly during his Life, that he died with the Memory of a good Report. *Griffith* lived thirty Years after him, and all went to their Graves in good time; the Country rendered over the World for their admirable government, and famous for their extraordinary Wonder.

FINIS